

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at

7:10 p.m. in the Junior-Senior High School Library. Members present were Bill Clay, chairman; Connie Lyons, vice chairwoman; Paul McFadden, clerk; John Toro; and Teri Cicero. Sue DeSack arrived at 7:15 p.m. Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton, Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo and Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester were also present. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr. arrived at 7:25 p.m. and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross arrived at 7:30 p.m.,

ORDER - Chair Clay called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Member McFadden read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – Deb Laperche informed the School Committee that the Boy Scouts are no longer able to use Metcalf classrooms for their meetings. They were told to use the cafeteria which she feels is not conducive to this type of meeting. Ms. Laperche understood that Wawaloam School still allows the Boy Scouts to use their

classrooms. The Superintendent will consult Bill Clay for clarification.

CONSENT AGENDA – Member DeSack moved to accept the Consent Agenda with the removal of the bills. Seconded by Vice Chair Lyons. Voted 7-0.

The following two (2) items were approved:

1. MINUTES – Regular and Executive Minutes of September 14, 2004.

2. HOME SCHOOL APPROVALS –

a. Hathaway – Constance and Charles

b. Edwards – Peter, Elizabeth, and Jacqueline

End of Consent Agenda

CORRESPONDENCE – (1) The Compass, (2) Grade 8 Open House Schedule,

(3) Rhode Island Rural Development Council Information regarding RI Rural Forum, (4) Flyer distributed by EWGTA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – All-day Referendum in lieu of DFM – Member Cicero suggested an all-day referendum in lieu of the District Financial meeting, since the auditorium can only hold 500 people and the time is inconvenient for many people. Member Toro noted that a change to the District Financial meeting would be very complicated.

The following ideas were suggested: (1) a referendum to allow

people to vote throughout the day, (2) dialogue one day, vote another day, (3) change in the District Financial meeting forum, (Superintendent Seitsinger arrived at 7:25 p.m.) (4) date change to second Saturday at 1 p.m. Members Coutcher, Cicero, and McFadden were appointed to form a committee to research this.

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OPENING DAY POPULATION – Dr. Seitsinger noted that the population of students attending Exeter-West Greenwich Schools from the two towns has evened out. Further update will be done based on October enrollment.

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – (Bob Ross arrived at 7:30 p.m.) Dr Seitsinger suggested forming a budget subcommittee to help the School Committee prepare the budget. The budget subcommittee is designed to provide more oversight of budget construction at the superintendent's level. It will not prevent individual School Committee members from having input. The budget subcommittee would replace the current model of one School Committee member assigned to one area of the budget. Member Toro moved to table forming the budget subcommittee until the first School Committee after December 1. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 2-5. Voting no were Chair Clay, Vice Chair Lyons, Members Coutcher,

DeSack and Cicero.

Vice Chair Lyons moved to form a budget subcommittee. Seconded by Member Cicero. Voted 5-1-1. Member McFadden voted no and Member Toro abstained.

Members Coutcher and DeSack volunteered to serve on the budget subcommittee.

ANNUAL NSBA CONFERENCE – Deadline for registering is December 30. If there is a grant notification will be late October. A decision was postponed to a later date.

04-05 BUDGET UPDATE – Mr. Ross reported that purchasing of supplies and materials is being held to 65% of the budgeted amount. Utilities are an on-going concern. Significant increases in oil prices and other utilities are being monitored closely. Hiring an energy saving engineer was discussed. Initial investment and for someone to overview the project would cost around \$100,000. It was suggested that the Committee invite the engineer from South Kingstown and other programs regarding energy savings to present at a School Committee meeting.

Chair Clay will request in writing to comprehensive review of the 04-05 budget at the last meeting in October. Member McFadden suggested reviewing the special education budget frequently.

Review of the special education budget will be included in the monthly status report.

CONTINUATION OF PRESENTATION SCHEDULE – Superintendent Seitsinger will prepare the presentation schedule for the next meeting. Administrators will present at the first meeting of the month. Chair Clay noted that there are time limits to the presentations.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES – Taping of School Committee candidates is scheduled for October 7.

BILLS – A special education evaluation bill was discussed. If a student has no medical coverage, it becomes the responsibility of the district to pay. Mr. Thornton announced

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that Denise Achin from RIDE will be presenting December 2 to guidance counselors, nurses, and social worker regarding Rite Care and Medicaid programs for students and families. Mr. Thornton will include a copy of her presentation in the December School Committee packet. Member DeSack suggested that Rite Care information be included in packets of information going home to parents. Member Coutcher moved to pay the bills in the amount

\$262,988.39. Seconded by Member Cicero. Voted 7-0.

Chair Clay moved to go into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. in accordance with RIGL

42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 to discuss Personnel RIGL 42-46-5(a)1 regarding the Special Education Director's Compensation and donating sick days and for Collective Bargaining RIGL 42-46-5(a)2 to discuss update of teachers' contract negotiations.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

Member McFadden moved to approve the modification of the request of the EWGTA to donate sick days to pay for COBRA of an ailing member who has recently left the district to 12 months of coverage at a single rate. Seconded by Vice Chair Lyons. Voted 5-1-1. Member Toro voted no. Member DeSack abstained.

JUDITH V. ALLENSON

CLERK